From: SodaPop
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 11:50am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I work with open source code all the time, and it disturbs me that the
proposed remedy against Microsoft does not include provisions to allow
the open source community access to the same interfaces as Microsofts
competitors. Under the current wording, only entities that fall under
the classical definition of business will benefit from this settlement.
It is my recommendation that the remedy be expanded to include providing
interoperability information to open source projects.

The software landscape and business rules have changed greatly in the
last few years. An increasingly large number of services run and are
supported by open source - everything from the internet DNS system, to
the mailer I am using to send this letter. A great deal of time and
effort has also gone into reverse engineering Microsoft protocols and
standards in an attempt to interoperate with Microsoft products.

Microsofts greatest competitor is no longer other businesses, but the
open source movement. With the settlement as it currently stands,
Microsoft can continue to impede the progress of open source. It is my
opinion that this not be allowed to happen.

Thank you for your time,
-dennis towne